

5. The method of claim 1 wherein a predetermined condition is a computed percentage value of a number of packets satisfying one or more predetermined conditions in comparison to a number of packets from the identified source of network packets.

6. The method of claim 1 further comprising:
in response to a request of the system administrator, halting execution of the identified source.

7. The method of claim 1 further comprising:
in response to a request of the system administrator, pausing execution of the identified source.

8. The method of claim 1 further comprising:
initiating a packet snooping session.

9. The method of claim 8 further comprising:
deploying distributed packet snoopers from a packet usage manager to monitor the multiple sources of network packets.

10. The method of claim 9 further comprising:
receiving packet filtering parameters at a
distributed packet snoopers;
matching packet filtering parameters against
5 transmitted packets; and
returning packet usage events to the packet usage
manager in response to a determination that a packet
surpassed a limitation specified by the packet filtering
parameters.

11. The method of claim 10 further comprising:
receiving a request for an action at a target
resource within the distributed data processing system,
wherein completion of the action depends upon operations
15 of a set of resources along a logical route through the
distributed data processing system, wherein the request
for the action at the target resource is associated with
a user or an application.

12. The method of claim 11 further comprising:
deriving one of the packet filtering parameters from
an application or a user associated with the request for
the action at the target resource.

13. The method of claim 11 further comprising:
selecting by the system administrator one of the
packet filtering parameters by choosing among a plurality
of active applications or users within the data
processing system.

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16. An apparatus for monitoring network packets within a distributed data processing system, the apparatus comprising:

means for monitoring multiple sources of network
5 packets within the distributed data processing system;

means for identifying a source of network packets as generating network packets having characteristics related to packet size that satisfy one or more predetermined conditions; and

10 means for alerting a system administrator to the identified source of network packets.

17. The apparatus of claim 16 wherein a predetermined condition is a packet size less than a predetermined
15 packet size threshold value.

18. The apparatus of claim 16 wherein a predetermined condition is a computed percentage value of an actual packet payload size in comparison to a maximum available
20 packet payload size.

19. The apparatus of claim 16 wherein a predetermined condition is a count of a number of packets satisfying one or more predetermined conditions that exceed a
25 predetermined maximum count threshold value.

20. The apparatus of claim 16 wherein a predetermined condition is a computed percentage value of a number of packets satisfying one or more predetermined conditions
30 in comparison to a number of packets from the identified source of network packets.

21. The apparatus of claim 16 further comprising:
means for halting execution of the identified source
in response to a request of the system administrator.

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22. The apparatus of claim 16 further comprising:
means for pausing execution of the identified source
in response to a request of the system administrator.

10 23. The apparatus of claim 16 further comprising:
means for initiating a packet snooping session.

24. The apparatus of claim 23 further comprising:
means for deploying distributed packet snoopers from
15 a packet usage manager to monitor the multiple sources of
network packets.

25. The apparatus of claim 24 further comprising:
means for receiving packet filtering parameters at a
20 distributed packet snooper;
means for matching packet filtering parameters
against transmitted packets; and
means for returning packet usage events to the
packet usage manager in response to a determination that
25 a packet surpassed a limitation specified by the packet
filtering parameters.

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26. The apparatus of claim 25 further comprising:

means for receiving a request for an action at a target resource within the distributed data processing system, wherein completion of the action depends upon operations of a set of resources along a logical route through the distributed data processing system, wherein the request for the action at the target resource is associated with a user or an application.

27. The apparatus of claim 26 further comprising:

means for deriving one of the packet filtering parameters from an application or a user associated with the request for the action at the target resource.

28. The apparatus of claim 26 further comprising:

means for selecting by the system administrator one of the packet filtering parameters by choosing among a plurality of active applications or users within the data processing system.

29. The apparatus of claim 26 further comprising:

means for deriving a set of logical routes from a network topology mapping, wherein each logical route is a series of endpoints that comprise an endpoint-to-endpoint route for completing the requested action.

30. The apparatus of claim 16 further comprising:

means for displaying the identified source of network packets to the system administrator in real time.

31. A computer program product in a computer-readable medium for use within a distributed data processing system for monitoring network packets, the computer program product comprising:

5 instructions for monitoring multiple sources of network packets within the distributed data processing system;

10 instructions for identifying a source of network packets as generating network packets having characteristics related to packet size that satisfy one or more predetermined conditions; and

 instructions for alerting a system administrator to the identified source of network packets.

15 32. The computer program product of claim 31 wherein a predetermined condition is a packet size less than a predetermined packet size threshold value.

20 33. The computer program product of claim 31 wherein a predetermined condition is a computed percentage value of an actual packet payload size in comparison to a maximum available packet payload size.

25 34. The computer program product of claim 31 wherein a predetermined condition is a count of a number of packets satisfying one or more predetermined conditions that exceed a predetermined maximum count threshold value.

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5 identified source of network packets.

comprising:

10 source in response to a request of the system administrator.

comprising:

source in response to a request of the system administrator.

20 comprising:

session.

25 comprising:

snoopers from a packet usage manager to monitor the multiple sources of network packets.

43. The computer program product of claim 41 further comprising:

instructions for selecting by the system administrator one of the packet filtering parameters by choosing among a plurality of active applications or users within the data processing system.

44. The computer program product of claim 41 further comprising:

instructions for deriving a set of logical routes from a network topology mapping, wherein each logical route is a series of endpoints that comprise an endpoint-to-endpoint route for completing the requested action.

45. The computer program product of claim 41 further comprising:

instructions for displaying the identified source of network packets to the system administrator in real time.